

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

~~1.~~ A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder in a subject comprising administering to the subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired a therapeutically effective amount of interferon-producing cells.

~~2.~~ A method of treating or preventing a disease or disorder in a subject comprising administering to the subject in which such treatment or prevention is desired a therapeutically effective amount of interferon isolated from interferon-producing cells.

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the disease is an infectious disease resulting from HIV, HBV or HCV infection.

4. The method of Claim 2, wherein the disease is an infectious disease resulting from HIV, HBV or HCV infection.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein the disorder is an immune disorder.

6. The method of Claim 2, the disorder is an immune disorder.

7. The method of Claim 5, wherein the immune disorder is an autoimmune disorder.

8. The method of Claim 6, wherein the immune disorder is an autoimmune disorder.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein the disease is cancer.

10. The method of Claim 2, wherein the disease is cancer.

~~11.~~ A method of monitoring the progression of a disease or disorder comprising:
(a) measuring the number of interferon-producing cells in a sample obtained from a subject having the disease or disorder; and

- (b) comparing the number of interferon-producing cells in said sample with the number of interferon-producing cells in a control sample or a previously determined reference range.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the disease or disorder is the result of HIV infection.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein an increase in the number of interferon-producing cells compared to the number of interferon-producing cells in a control sample or a previously determined range indicates that the HIV infection is not progressing or not progressing very rapidly.

14. The method of Claim 12, wherein a decrease in the number of interferon-producing cells compared to the number of interferon-producing cells in a control sample or a previously determined range indicates that the HIV infection is progressing.

~~15.~~ A method of assessing the effectiveness of a therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition in treating, inhibiting or ameliorating a symptom in a subject suffering a disease or disorder, comprising measuring and comparing the number of interferon-producing cells in a sample obtained from the subject before and after treatment with the therapeutic or pharmaceutical composition.

16. A therapeutic composition for administration to a mammal comprising interferon-producing cells.

17. The therapeutic composition of Claim 16, wherein the interferon-producing cells are genetically engineered.

18. The therapeutic composition of Claim 16, wherein the mammal is a human.

19. The therapeutic composition of Claim 17, wherein the mammal is human.